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PLANT HEALTH IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES



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TABLE OF CONTENT

- Plant health in the Czech Republic – legislation
 - Plant health law – examples
 - Plant health care – national regulation
- National action plan for the safe use of pesticides
update 2025 - 2029

PLANT HEALTH IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC – LEGISLATION

🌿 **Act No. 326/2004 Coll. (amended by Act No. 273/2022 Coll.), on phytosanitary care**

This law lays down the rules for the protection of plants against harmful organisms, the use of plant protection products (pesticides) and the obligations of users, including the registration of products and mandatory training of persons handling pesticides. It is also a key tool for maintaining plant health and ensuring safe agricultural production.

PLANT HEALTH LAW – EXAMPLES

🌿 Harmful organisms

Pest economic thresholds are a key concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which determines at what level of pest population intervention is necessary.

These pest economic thresholds are determined and vary according to: The type of pest (e.g. number of individuals per m²), the crop grown (cereals, vegetables, orchards, etc.), the stage of development of the crop and the environmental conditions.

Harm thresholds help to optimise the use of protective measures - for example chemical pesticides - so that they are only applied when it's really necessary. This approach minimises costs, reduces the burden on the environment and protects non-target organisms.

PLANT HEALTH LAW – EXAMPLES

🌿 Pest economic thresholds – Common vole (*Microtus arvalis*)

The common vole is a very important pest in Czech agriculture, which has become the subject of intense phytosanitary interest in recent years. It causes damage mainly to cereals, rape, sugar beet, forage crops and orchards. Its overgrowth can lead to significant yield losses, disruption of ecosystems and increased costs for protection measures.

🌿 Example of damage thresholds - number of active exits from burrows per ha (according to CISTA)

- 🌿 Spring: 50 in all crops
- 🌿 Summer: 200 in all crops
- 🌿 Autumn: 200 in annual crops, 400 in perennial crops

The law supports the monitoring and reporting of voles through the CISTA which provides regular mapping of pests and their populations.

PLANT HEALTH CARE – NATIONAL REGULATION

🌿 **Electronical evidence of used plant protection products**

Valid from 1st July 2023, for agricultural entrepreneurs farming more than 200 hectares of agricultural land. They are obliged to convert records of the use of plant protection products or auxiliary plant protection products into electronical form and submit them by the end of the month following the application.

🌿 **Labelling of plant protection products with two-dimensional barcodes**

The two-dimensional barcodes on the packaging of plant protection products are a modern tool ensuring a higher level of traceability, safety and efficiency in the handling of these products. They are also a tool to simplify administration, trace their route to the consumer and prevent counterfeiting.

NAP UPDATE (2025-2029)

The submitted draft update of the NAP (2025-2029) is the third action plan of the Czech Republic

It was prepared jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment and in cooperation with experts from scientific research, academic and stakeholder organisations.

The proposal defines objectives, targets and measures to reduce the risks and impacts of the use of plant protection products on human health and the environment, while reducing dependence on the use of plant protection products.

GOALS OF THE NAP UPDATE (2025-2029)

- Objective I. Reducing the risks associated with the use of pesticides for human health
- Objective II. Reduction of risks associated with the use of pesticides for surface water and groundwater
- Objective III. Reduction of risks associated with the use of pesticides for non-target organisms and their environment
- Objective IV. Optimising the use of pesticides without limiting the extent of agricultural production

A total of 36 measures were proposed to achieve the objectives. NAP and its goals are build on the basis of the first **NAP** aproved in 2012.

The protection of people, groundwater and surface water and non-targeted living organisms and their environment from the negative impacts of the use of plant protection products are addressed as priority areas.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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